

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /077 W

-----021234Z 022775 /11

R 011237Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4028

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1096

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ET SU

SUBJECT: EPMG/GOS RELATIONS: MENGISTU MEETING WITH SUDANESE  
CHARGE

REF: ADDIS 1796

1. MEETING REPORTED REFTEL, PLUS RETURN HERE EPMG AMBASSADOR MARCH 26 (KHARTOUM 1073) SUGGESTS DIRG TRYING TACTICALLY MORE CONCILIATORY LINE IN ITS DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS WITH SUDAN. UNLESS MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE SHIFTS IN EPMG POLICIES ALSO ENVISIONED, HOWEVER, THIS STRIKES US AS 'TOO LITTLE AND TOO LATE' AND WILL BE UNLIKELY OFFSET IN GOS MIND RECENT INTENSIFICATION ANTI-NIMEIRI PROPAGANDA FROM ADDIS RADIO (NOTABLY DAILY BROADCASTS BY INFLUENTIAL SUDANESE NATIONAL FRONT EXILE HUSSEIN AL-HINDI NOTED IN KHARTOUM 959 AND ET AL) PLUS CONTINUATION WHAT IS SEEN HERE AS HARD LINE ON ERITREAN ISSUE. MENGISTU'S PLOY SEEMS PARTICULARLY TRANSPARENT IN LIGHT CONTRARY LINE HE TOOK WITH AFRICANS (REFTEL) WHICH SUDANESE WILL CERTAINLY LEARN ABOUT FROM EGYPTIANS.

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2. DESPITE EGYPTIAN OPINION REFTEL, WE HAVE DETECTED HERE LITTLE TONING DOWN IN SUDANESE MEDIA PRESS TREATMENT ETHIOPIAN ISSUES. IT IS TRUE THE UNACCEPTABLE TERM QUOTE QBBYSINIA UNQUOTE NO LONGER SO PREVALENT IN LOCAL PRESS, BUT ARTICLES HAVE INCREASED ON SUCCESS ERITREAN GUERRILLA EFFORTS, EDU ACTIVITIES AND ALLEGED EPMG ATROCITIES AS REPORTED TO SUNA BY EPRP SPOKESMAN (KHARTOUM 1073).

3. WE HAVE SEEN NO EVIDENCE HERE EGYPTIANS LEANING ON SUDANESE QUOTE TO PATCH UP RELATIONS WITH EPMG UNQUOTE AND DOUBT ANY SUCH ATTEMPT BY CAIRO WOULD BE WELL RECEIVED BY NIMEIRI IN LIGHT HIS INCREASINGLY OPEN SUPPORT FOR ERITREANS AND EDU. NOR WOULD THIS REGIME WELCOME ANY USG APPROACH TO MENGISTU TO IMPROVE OUR INFLUENCE. EGYPTIAN COMMENTS REFTEL IMPRESS US AS ANOTHER ILLUSTRATION DISPARATE OBJECTIVES ARAB MODERATE STATES. CAIRO COULD WELL BE MORE INTERESTED IN REDUCING SOVIET INFLUENCE MOGADISCIO THAN IN CONTINUED SUDAN/ETHIOPIA CONFRONTATION, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT RECENTLY CONCLUDED EGYPTIAN/SUDANESE DEFENSE TREATY. SOME SENIOR EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS ALSO ARE UNENTHUSIASTIC RE NIMEIRI'S RED SEA SECURITY INITIATIVE (KHARTOUM 996; CAIRO 5425). BUT, FOR GOS, KEY AIMS REMAIN ENDING ERITREAN INSURGENCY ON TERMS ACCEPTABLE ERITREANS (QUOTE SELF-DETERMINATION UNQUOTE), REDUCING OR ISOLATING SOVIET INFLUENCE IN ETHIOPIA AND PROPITIATING WEALTH SAG (NOT NECESSARILY IN

THAT ORDER). FOR NIMEIRI BEAUTY OF ERITREAN INDEPENDENCE AS (UNSTATED) POLICY GOAL IS THAT IT WOULD EVIDENTLY HELP ACCOMPLISH ALL THREE OBJECTIVES.

4. SUBSEQUENT DRAFTING FOREGOING, ACTING FONMIN DENG TOLD AMBASSADOR APRIL 1 THAT RETURNED EPMG AMBASSADOR TEDESSE HAD BROUGHT NO MAJOR NEW PROPOSALS. IN INITIATL CONTACTS WITH FONOFF, TEDESSE HAS SIMPLY BEEN ECHOING LINE MENGISTU TOOK WITH GOS CHARGE. DENG ADMITTED IT APPEARED THAT DIRG SEEMED TO BE MODERATING ITS TONE BUT STRESSED THAT SUDAN CONFIDENTIAL

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HAS HEARD SUCH TALK BEFORE AND THEREFORE UNABLE DETERMINE WHETHER NEW LINE MAY BE SIGNIFICANT OR IS SIMPLY A TACTIC. HE INDICATED GOS WOULD HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE WHETHER EPMG IN FACT SERIOUS. BREWER

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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